

SECRET

EUR/RPM:CHTHOMAS/RFHOPPER:
4/3/81 EXT.21134
THE SECRETARY

EUR:LSEAGLEBURGER

S/S-0:

IMMEDIATE LONDON, PARIS IMMEDIATE, BONN IMMEDIATE
IMMEDIATE USNATO, MOSCOW IMMEDIATE, WARSAW IMMEDIATE
NODIS

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 4/3/11 {HAIG, ALEXANDER M.}

TAGS:

PL, NATO, UR

SUBJECT:

POLAND - MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY

AMH

CHT/RFH
LSE

1. {SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT}

2. PLEASE DELIVER TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY
HAIG IN PARA 3 BELOW TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR:

. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SOVIET POSTURE REGARDING
POLAND SUGGESTS THAT AN INTERVENTION BY THE USSR IS A
SERIOUS POSSIBILITY. THIS HAS LED ME TO POSTPONE MY
PLANNED TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

. IF AN INTERVENTION OCCURS, I WILL CONSULT WITH
THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ON THE SITUATION IN

State Dept. review completed

SECRET

I

POLAND. THEREAFTER I WOULD TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS FOR THE EMERGENCY NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL WHERE WE WOULD DECIDE ON THE LIST OF PROPOSED MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE POLISH SITUATION.

. IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT WE MUST, AT BRUSSELS, BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE RAPID AND CONCRETE ALLIANCE DECISIONS. NONE OF US WILL BE ABLE TO LINGER IN BRUSSELS, AND IT WILL BE DECISIVELY IMPORTANT TO CONVEY SWIFTLY TO THE SOVIETS A CLEAR AND PAINFUL SIGNAL. WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE EMERGENCY MINISTERIAL TO DEVELOP INTO A WESTERN DEBATE. UNITY AND DECISIVENESS ARE DEMANDED BY THE NATURE OF THE SOVIET CHALLENGE AND, MOST CERTAINLY, BY OUR PUBLICS AND PARLIAMENTS.

. IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL POINTS SET OUT ABOVE WHICH I HAVE SHARED WITH ALL OF THE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE FOUR OF US HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO POLAND. THE ALLIANCE PACKAGE OF MEASURES BUILDS ON THE CONSENSUS REACHED BY OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIRECTORS. THE NATO LIST, HOWEVER, HAS SOME OPEN QUESTIONS AND CAVEATS THAT COULD EASILY CAUSE THE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION TO DEGENERATE AND LEAD TO A LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR. IT WILL TAKE LEADERSHIP BY ALL OF US TO INSURE THAT THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN. YOU WILL HAVE AN ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENCOURAGING OUR ALLIES WHO ARE MEMMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO COME PREPARED TO MAKE SOME COURAGEOUS BUT NECESSARY DECISIONS.

. THEREFORE, FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, WE WILL NEED TO GET TOGETHER IN A QUADRIPARTITE CONTEXT BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL TO PLAN HOW WE CAN HEAD IT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.44